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PATENT
450100-05025IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi Yoshizawa, et al. Notice of Allowance
Dated: 06/27/2006
Serial No. : 10/829,071 Confirmation No. 7306
For : RETRIEVING DEVICE AND METHOD, RECORDING
MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM FOR ENABLING A PLURALITY
OF ASSOCIATIVE MEMORIES FOR RETRIEVAL AND
AUTO-STORING (AS AMENDED)
Filed : April 21, 2004
Examiner : Kim, Hong Chong
Art Unit : 2185

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151FACSIMILE

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RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed June 27, 2006. To the extent the Examiner's


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Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

In addition, the attached table is responsive to the Examiner's incorrect assertion that the drawings do not show every feature specified in the claims and that a flow diagram is not illustrated. The attached table identifies elements in the drawings on which features recited in the claims read. The objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
(212) 588-0800

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<u>Claim Features</u>	<u>Drawings</u>
<u>Claim 1:</u> retrieving means for retrieving a memory part corresponding to retrieval data from memory parts	Figure 6: S1 Figure 7: 2
first output control means for controlling output of an initial signal	Figure 7: 61 - (1-6) Figure 10: 17
second output control means for controlling output of a retrieval result signal	Figure 6: S5 Figure 7: 71 - (1-6)
N first input means	Figure 9: 81 - (1-4)
second input means for inputting a reference signal;	Figure 9: 82 - 1(A-C); 82 - 2(A, B); 83 - 2(A, B); 82 - 3A; 83 - 3(A, B), 83 - 4(A-C) Figure 10: 11
obtaining means for obtaining a priority signal	Figure 7: 45 - (1, 2); 47 - (1, 2) Figure 8: 1 - (1-4)
detecting means	Figure 7: 43, 44 Figure 8 Figure 14
output means for detecting a predetermined memory part from said memory part	Figure 7: 41, 43, 44 Figure 10: 16
performing means	Figure 6: S6, S8
<u>Claim 2:</u> an obtaining step for obtaining a priority signal	Figure 6: S1

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a detecting step	Figure 6: S3
an output step for detecting a predetermined memory part from said memory part	Figure 6: S4
a performing step	Figure 6: S5-S8